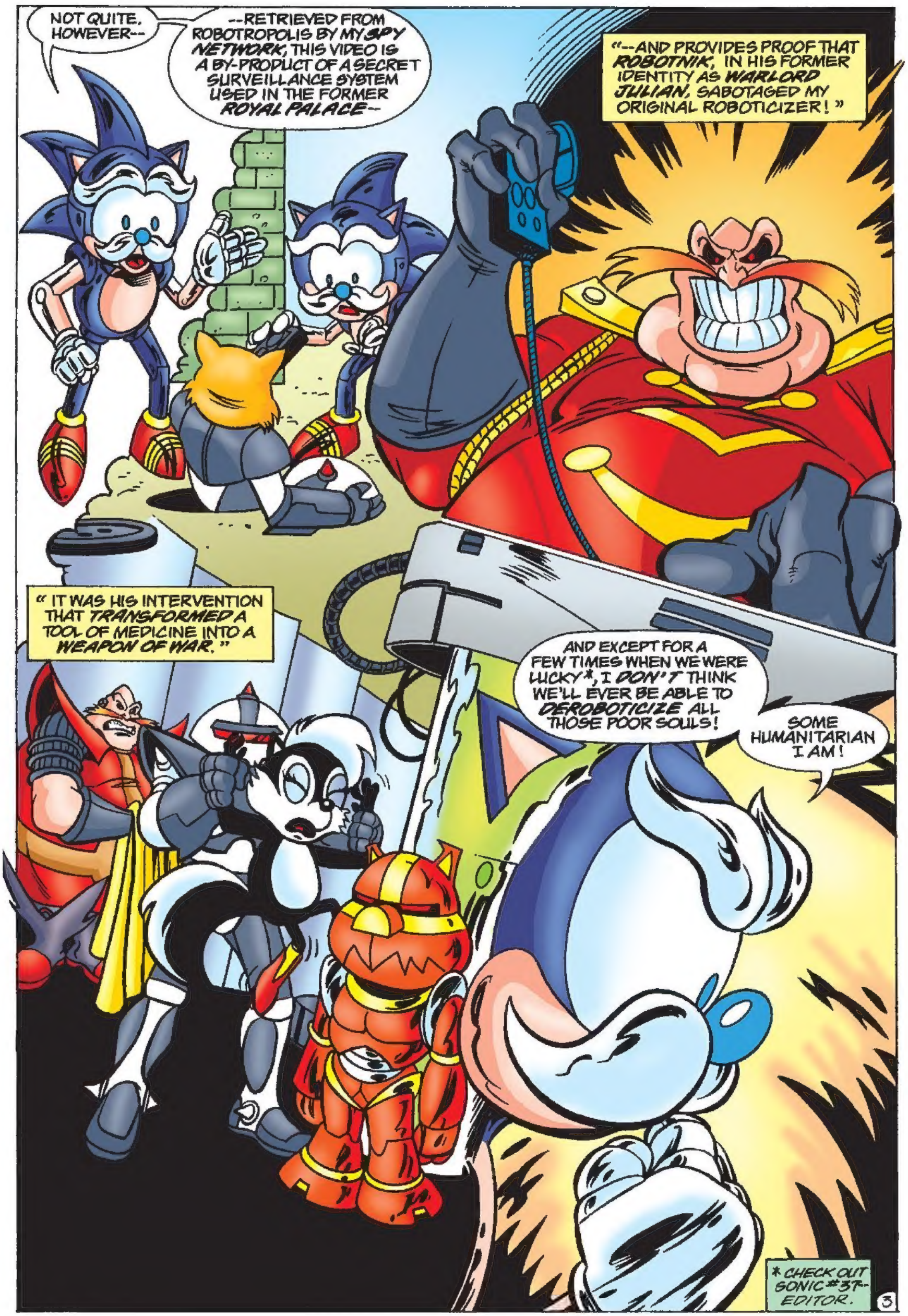
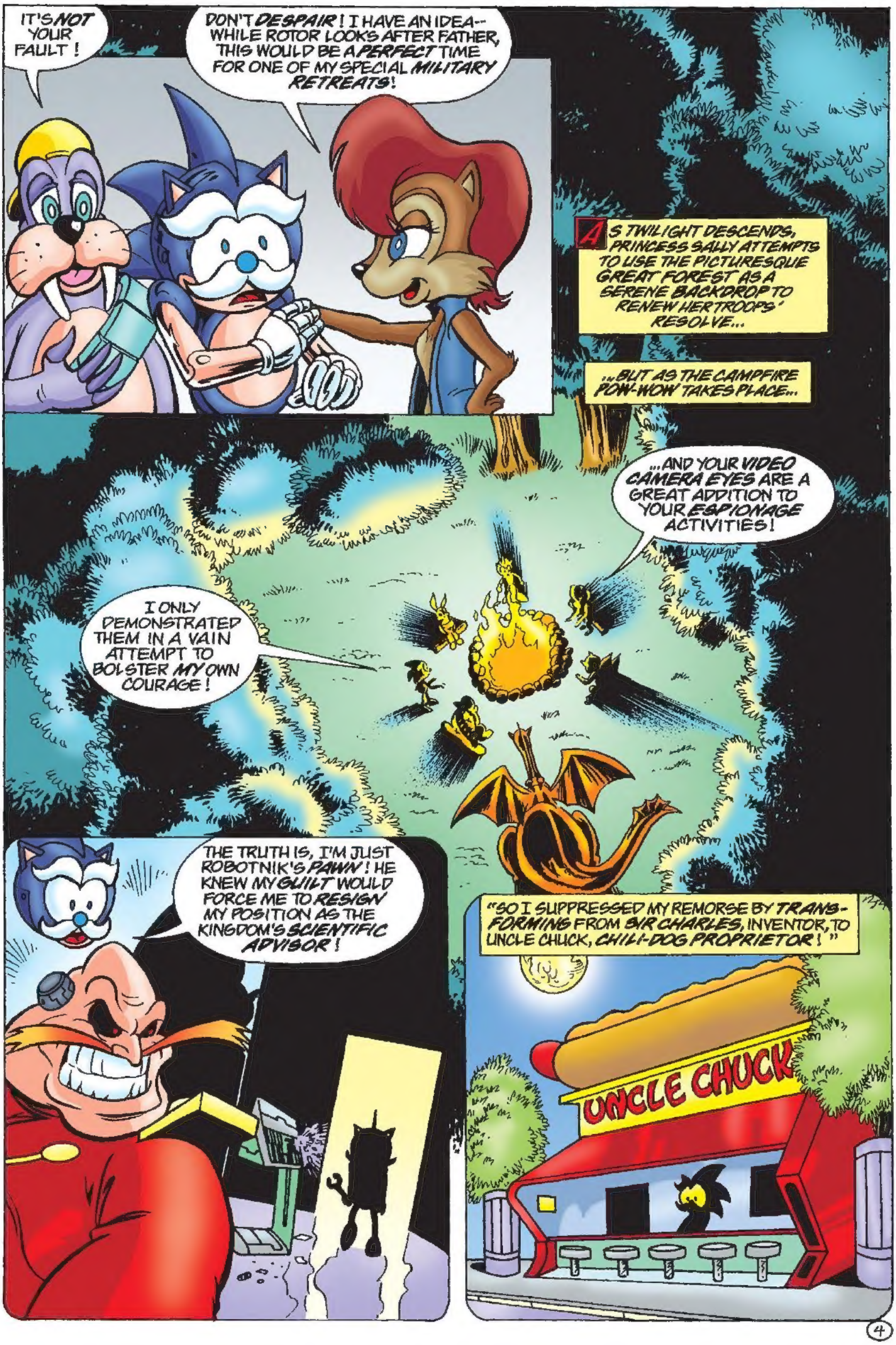
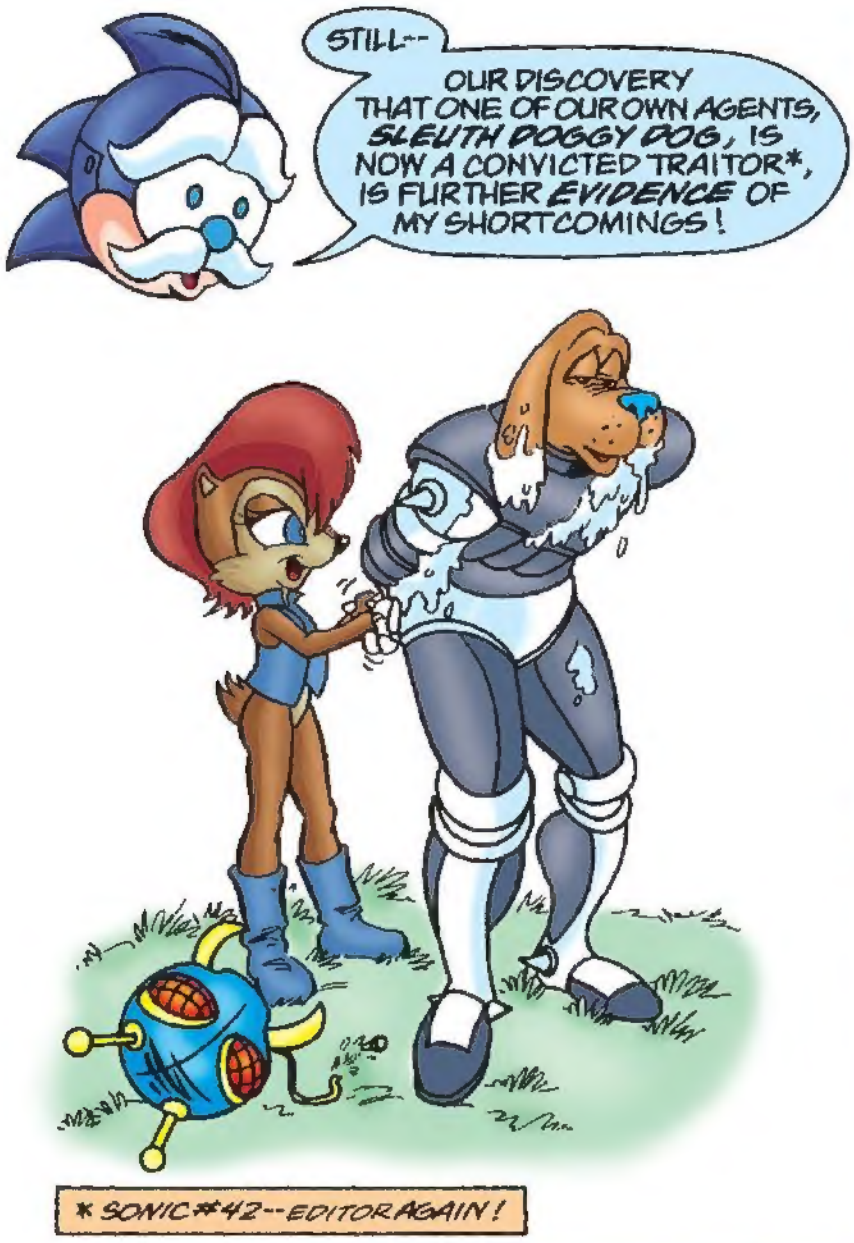
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.46
MAY.
$1.50
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SPAZ
HARUO

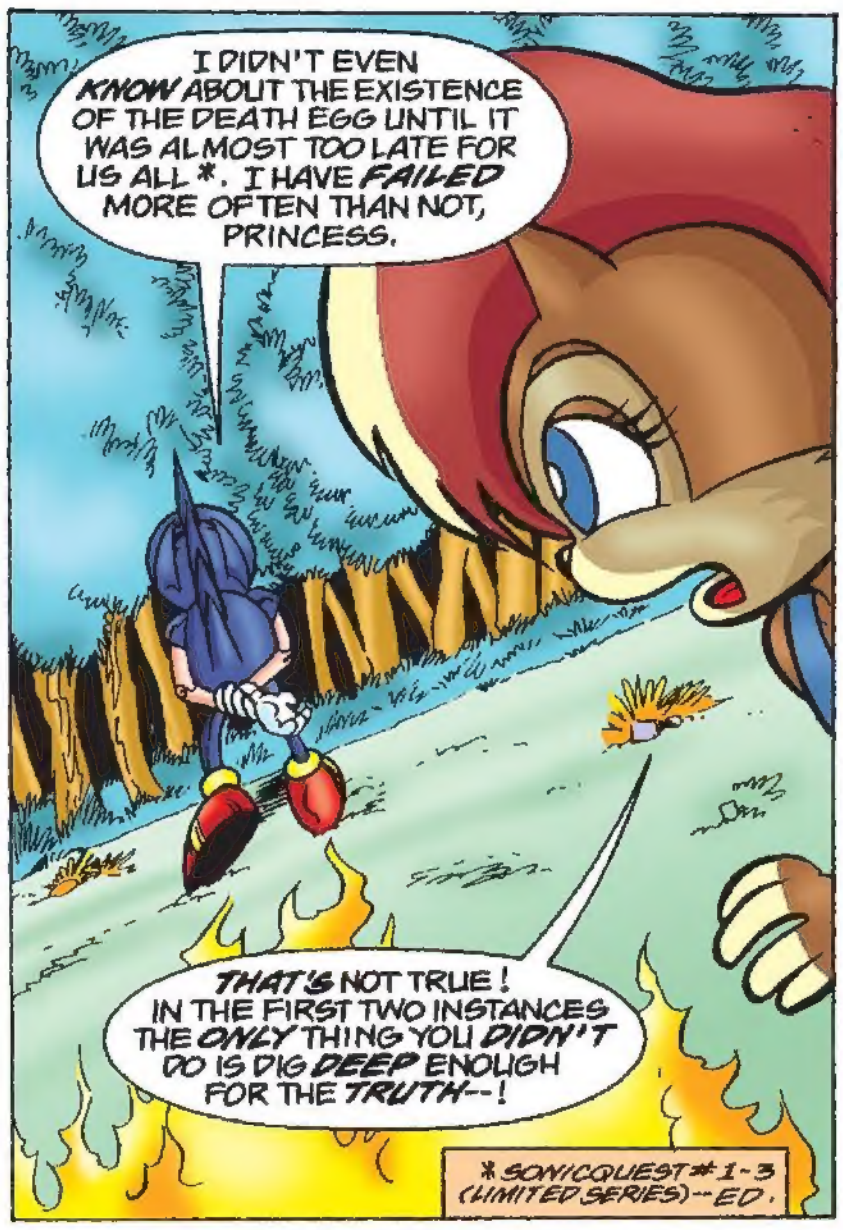
ONE FATEFUL DAY, A BENEVOLENT SCIENTIST DIRECTED HIS TALENTS TOWARD AN INGENIOUS EFFORT TO PROLONG THE LIVES OF MOBIAN CITIZENS...
...AND IN DOING SO, INADVERTENTLY CREATED AN INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION, USED AS PART OF A SWEEPING TIDE OF TYRANNY, SIGNALING THE DOWNFALL OF PLANET MOBIUS AND ITS KINGDOM OF ACORN!
FOR THE LOVE OF MOBIUS--NO!!!
THE ROBOTICIZATION PROCESS WORKED ALL TOO WELL--NOW MY BROTHER IS JUST A MINDLESS MACHINE!
SNAP!
BREAK
SHATTER
COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON
PART ONE
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS & KENT TAYLOR
PENCILS: NELSON ORTEGA
INKS: BRIAN THOMAS
LETTERING: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN
EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

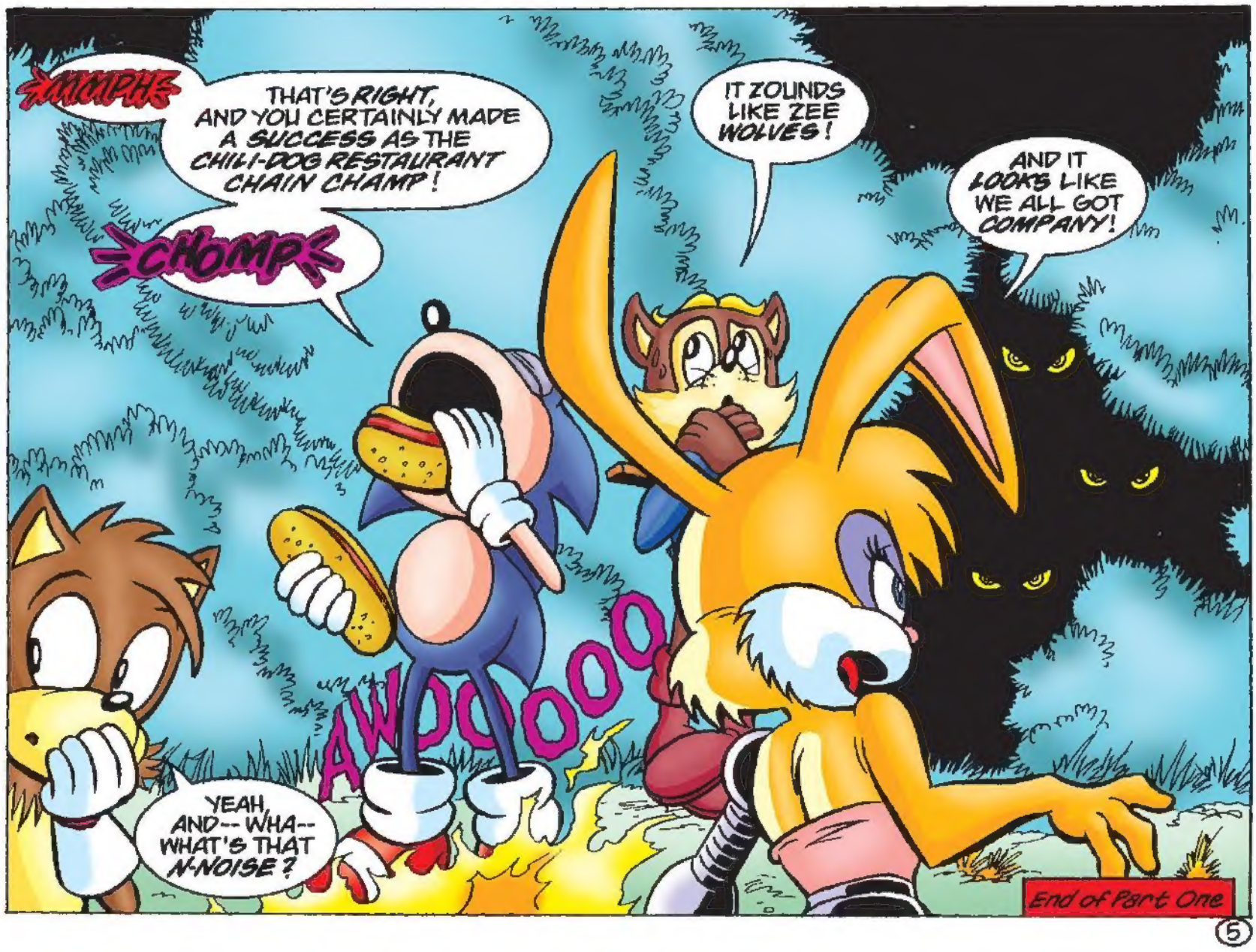
THAT IS WAY PAST COOL, UNCLE CHUCK! HOW YA DOING IT?
WHERE'S THE POPCORN?
WELL, SONIC, WHAT KIND OF SPY WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T INSTALL THE NEWEST DIGITAL VIDEO TECHNOLOGY DIRECTLY INTO MY OPTIC SENSORS?!
NOT ONLY CAN I RECORD WHAT I SEE, BUT I CAN ALSO PLAY BACK ANY PRE-RECORDED VIDEO!
YEAH, BUT DO YOU HAVE A DISH ANTENNAE WITH A HUNDRED MOVIE STATIONS?!
DULCY!!

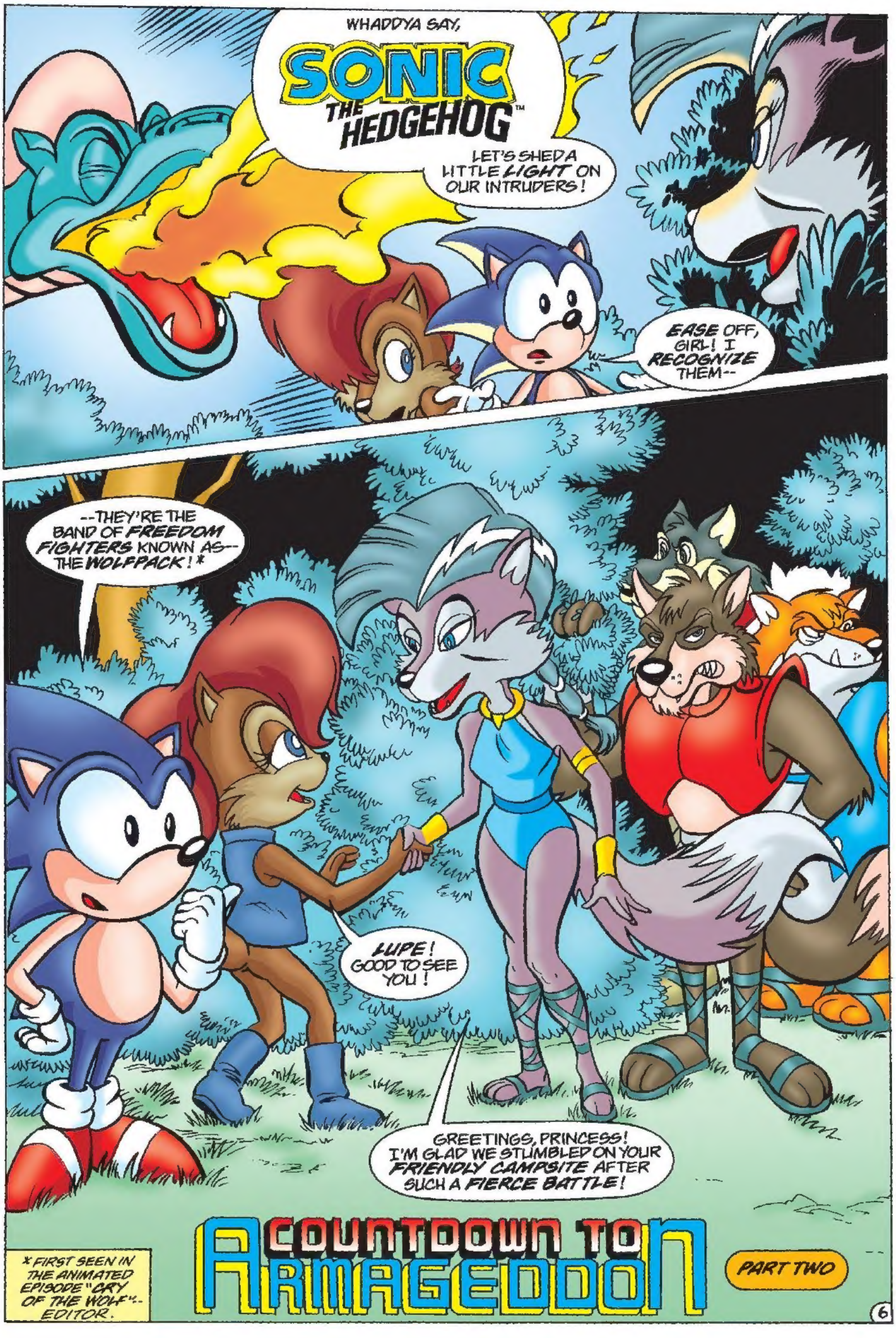

NOT QUITE. HOWEVER--
--RETRIEVED FROM ROBOTROPOLIS BY MY SPY NETWORK, THIS VIDEO IS A BY-PRODUCT OF A SECRET SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM USED IN THE FORMER ROYAL PALACE--
"--AND PROVIDES PROOF THAT ROBOTNIK, IN HIS FORMER IDENTITY AS WARLORD JULIAN, SABOTAGED MY ORIGINAL ROBOTICIZER!"
"IT WAS HIS INTERVENTION THAT TRANSFORMED A TOOL OF MEDICINE INTO A WEAPON OF WAR."
AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW TIMES WHEN WE WERE LUCKY*, I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO DEROBOTICIZE ALL THOSE POOR SOULS!
SOME HUMANITARIAN I AM!
* CHECK OUT SONIC #37-- EDITOR.


IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
DON'T DESPAIR! I HAVE AN IDEA-- WHILE ROTOR LOOKS AFTER FATHER, THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME FOR ONE OF MY SPECIAL MILITARY RETREATS!
AS TWILIGHT DESCENDS, PRINCESS SALLY ATTEMPTS TO USE THE PICTURESQUE GREAT FOREST AS A SERENE BACKDROP TO RENEW HER TROOPS' RESOLVE...
...BUT AS THE CAMPFIRE POW-WOW TAKES PLACE...
...AND YOUR VIDEO CAMERA EYES ARE A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES!
I ONLY DEMONSTRATED THEM IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER MY OWN COURAGE!
THE TRUTH IS, I'M JUST ROBOTNIK'S PAWN! HE KNEW MY GUILT WOULD FORCE ME TO RESIGN MY POSITION AS THE KINGDOM'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR!
"SO I SUPPRESSED MY REMORSE BY TRANSFORMING FROM SIR CHARLES, INVENTOR, TO UNCLE CHUCK, CHILI-DOG PROPRIETOR!"
UNCLE CHUCK


STILL--
OUR DISCOVERY THAT ONE OF OUR OWN AGENTS, SLEUTH DOGGY DOG, IS NOW A CONVICTED TRAITOR*, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF MY SHORTCOMINGS!
* SONIC #42--EDITOR AGAIN!

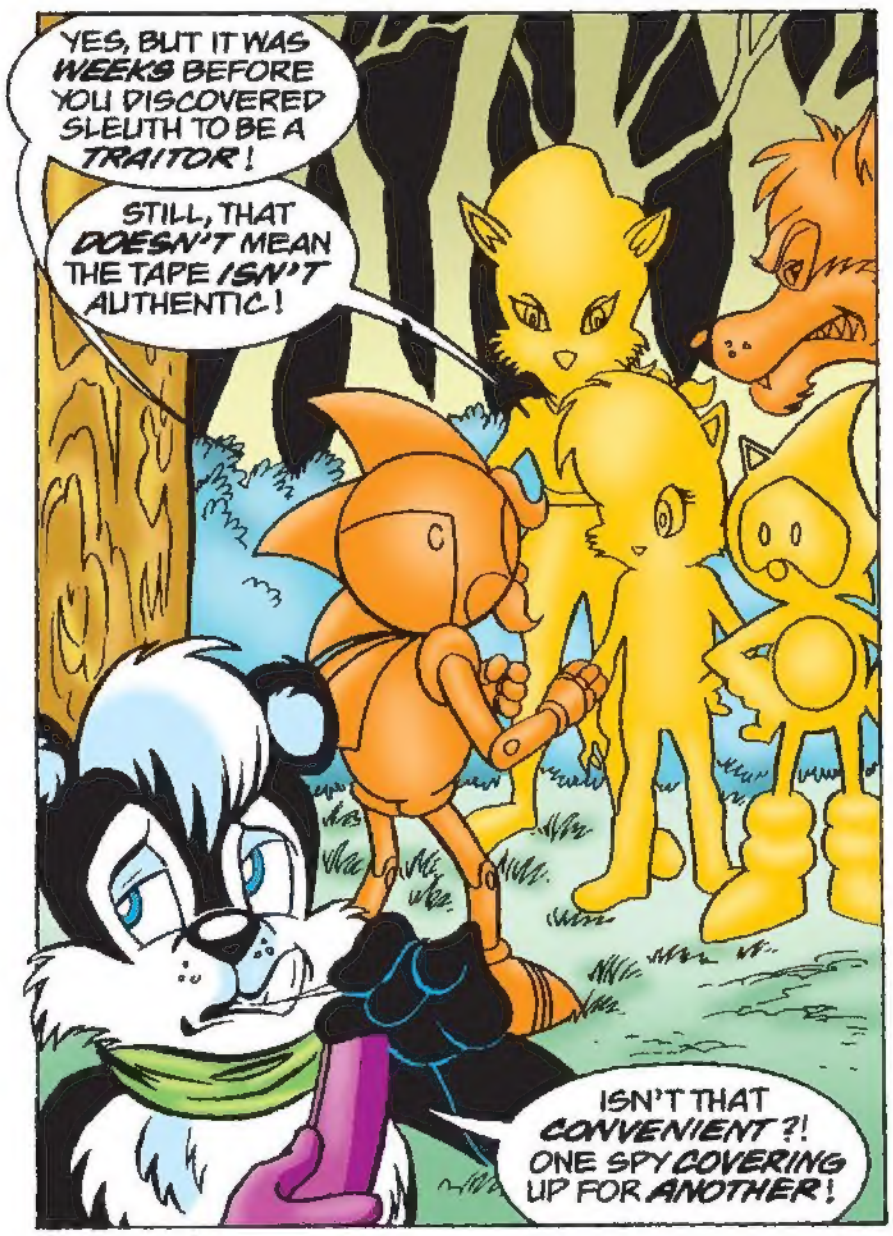

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DEATH EGG UNTIL IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE FOR US ALL *. I HAVE FAILED MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, PRINCESS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! IN THE FIRST TWO INSTANCES THE ONLY THING YOU DIDN'T DO IS DIG DEEP ENOUGH FOR THE TRUTH--!
* SONIC QUEST #1-3 (LIMITED SERIES)--ED.


THAT'S RIGHT, AND YOU CERTAINLY MADE A SUCCESS AS THE CHILI-DOG RESTAURANT CHAIN CHAMP!
CHOMP
IT SOUNDS LIKE ZEE WOLVES!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE ALL GOT COMPANY!
AWOOOOO
YEAH, AND-- WHA-- WHAT'S THAT N-NOISE?
End of Part One


WHADDYA SAY,
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
LET'S SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON OUR INTRUDERS!
EASE OFF, GIRL! I RECOGNIZE THEM--
--THEY'RE THE BAND OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS KNOWN AS-- THE WOLFPACK!*
LUPE! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
GREETINGS, PRINCESS! I'M GLAD WE STUMBLED ON YOUR FRIENDLY CAMPSITE AFTER SUCH A FIERCE BATTLE!
* FIRST SEEN IN THE ANIMATED EPISODE "CRY OF THE WOLF".- EDITOR.
COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON
PART TWO

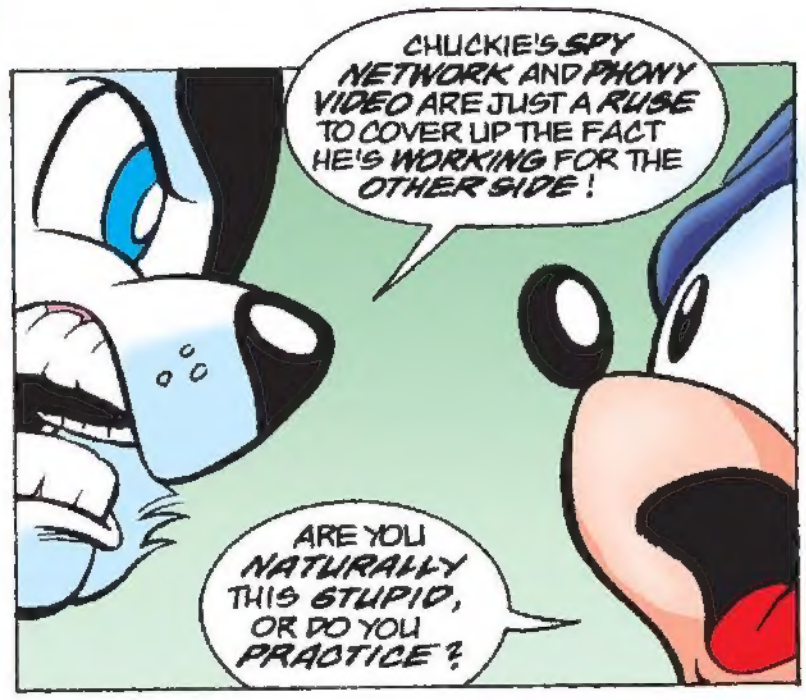
AS THE COVERT GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS DETAIL THEIR RECENT CONFLICT...
--AND ROBOTNIK'S BUILDING A NEW LINE OF SUPER 'BOTS!
I HOPE THEY'RE NOT WORSE THAN HIS COMBOTS!*
*LAST SEEN IN SONIC #38--EDITOR.
DRAGO, DON'T YA LIKE YER CHILI DO--ER--CHILI WIENER?
YES, WHAT'S DISTURBING ME IS THAT AFTER LEAVING A DEN OF ROBOTS--
--WE ARE NOW FEEDING WITH ONE!
WHAT 'YA MEAN?! UNCLE CHUCK'S ONE OF US!
REALLY? HOW DO YOU KNOW HE'S NOT ROBOTNIK'S SPY?
BECAUSE I SAY SO, TOUGH GUY!
--AND WHEN SONIC THE AMATEUR, SPEAKS, PEOPLE LISTEN!

NOW TAKE MY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE--CUT DOWN ON THE CAMPFIRE BEFORE YOU ATTRACT THE ENTIRE PLANET!
GEOFFREY ST. JOHN*, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HELLO, LUV!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE BEEN DOING A BIT OF "SLEUTH-ING" BY "DOG-GEDLY FOLLOWING CHUCKIE'S EVERY MOVE!
*REMEMBER HIM, GANG? HE FIRST APPEARED IN THE PRINCESS SALLY MINI-SERIES, AND HAS BEEN A PAIN IN SONIC'S SIDE SINCE ISSUE #31! -- EDITOR.
SOUNDS MORE LIKE SPYING TO ME!
INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS, MATE--
--ESPECIALLY SINCE THE AGENT WHO UNCOVERED YOUR VIDEO WAS ONE OF ROBOTNIK'S SPIES--SLEUTH DOGGY DOG!
IS THIS TRUE?


YES, BUT IT WAS WEEKS BEFORE YOU DISCOVERED SLEUTH TO BE A TRAITOR!
STILL, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE TAPE ISN'T AUTHENTIC!
ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT?! ONE SPY COVERING UP FOR ANOTHER!

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T REALIZE MY REBEL UNDERGROUND SNIFFED OUT YOUR DECEPTION!
WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU SNIFFED, WE JUST THOUGHT YOU SMELLED!

QUIET, DULCY!
WHAT DECEPTION?
DON'T YOU BLOKES GET IT?


CHUCKIE'S SPY NETWORK AND PHONY VIDEO ARE JUST A RUSE TO COVER UP THE FACT HE'S WORKING FOR THE OTHER SIDE!
ARE YOU NATURALLY THIS STUPID, OR DO YOU PRACTICE?

THIS ISN'T A GAME, BOY! YOU'RE IN OVER YER 'EAD IN THIS MAN'S WAR!

WHAM!

WELL, YOUR HEAD'S GOING TO BE SUCKING DIRT!

WHUFF

STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED YET, MATE--

FWOMP!

--THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN SPEED--

--IT ALSO TAKES SKILL, EXPERIENCE, AND CUNNING!

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

TOO BAD IT'S THE LAST LESSON YOU'LL EVER LEARN!

GEOFFREY! NO!

End of Part Two

COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART THREE

THAT EES ENOUGH!

THE 'EDGEHOG MAY BE ZEE IMBECILE LIKE YOU, BUT EVEN HE DOES NOT DESAIRVE DEATH!

THRACK!

SAVED AND INSULTED IN THE SAME SECOND-- NOW THAT'S SPEED!

WOW! WOTTA PUNCH!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, MATE? THIS DOESN'T INVOLVE YOU!

MY PROBLEM IS WITH YOU, L'PEW.

I WILL NO LONGER SUBDUE MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOU!

YOU DAIRE TO SAY UNCLE CHUCK IS ZEE TRAITOR?

NO! IT IS YOU WHO ARE ZEE SPY!

HOW CAN THAT BE?

* WAY BACK IN SONIC #20--EDITOR.

EEE WAS MY FATHAIRE!
AND I SAY YOU HAVE STOLEN MY FAMILY HONOR!
I NEVER EVEN KNEW THE BLOKE!

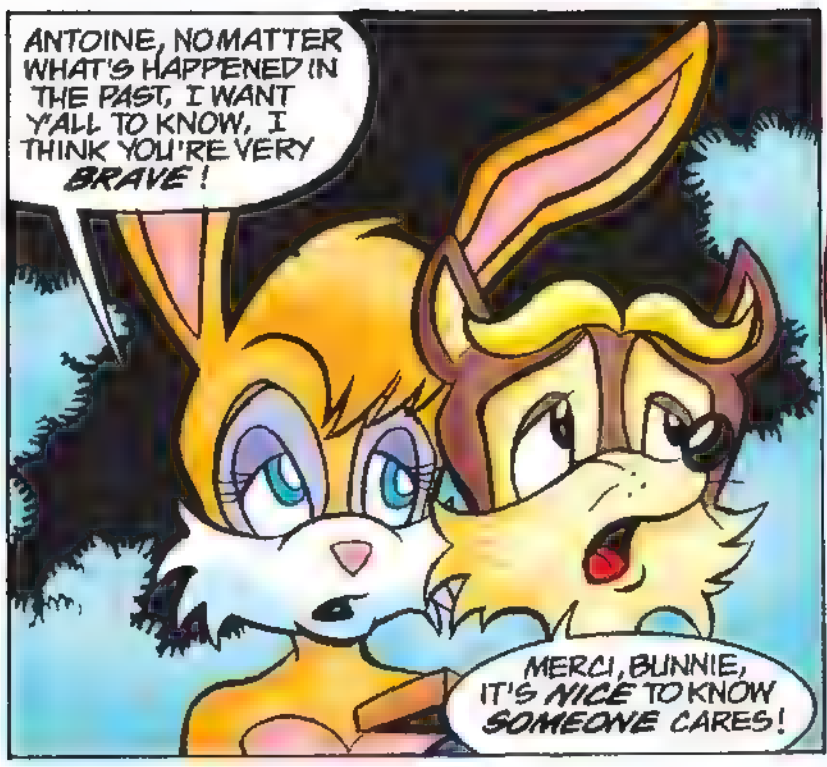
EXACTLY! AND YOU DON'T KNOW ZEE KING, EITHER!
YOU ARE ZEE IMPOSTAIRE!

THAT'S ENOUGH!
BACK OFF AND WE'LL SORT THIS OUT!

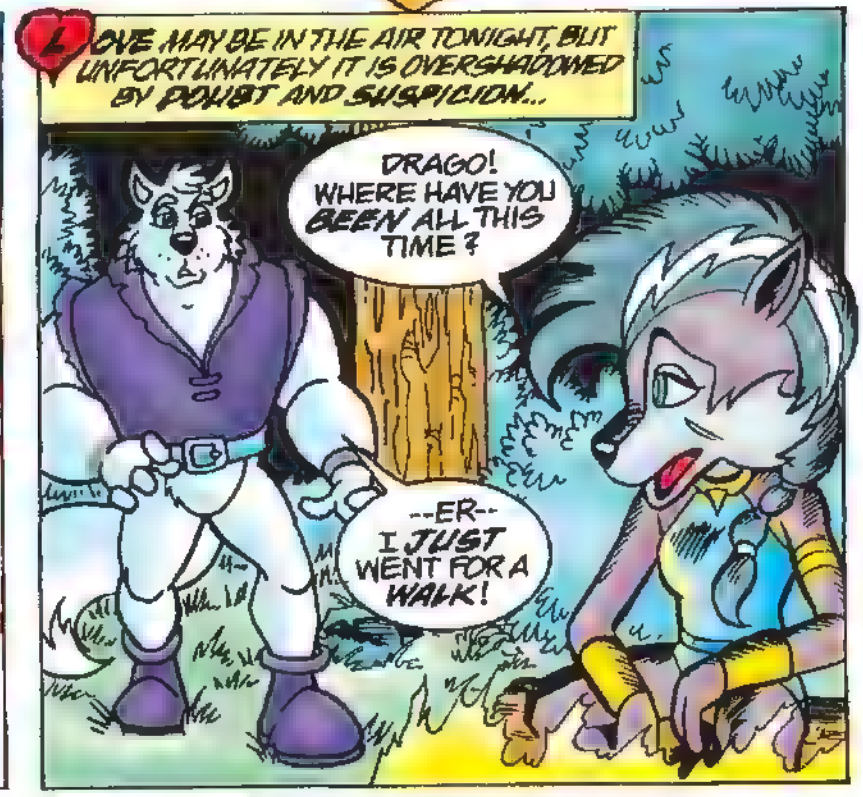
I NEVER KNEW TWAN WASN'T A REAL SOLDIER!
YUP, LIKE US, HE WAS TOO YOUNG!
AS A TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER, HE WEARS HIS UNIFORM!

AND, LIKE ALL OF US, HE ROSE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF WAR WITH EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE!
YOU MEAN HE WASN'T ALWAYS A DOOFUS?

NOPE! IN FACT, IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR, HE EVEN SAVED MUH LIFE!
KCHANG!
EVER THE DASHIN' HERO, HE BOWED BEFORE ROYALTY, OFFERING HIS HONOR AND COURAGE TO RESTORE THE REALM!
"IN TIME, HIS LOYALTY SPROUTED TO MISGUIDED LOVE..."
BUT WITHOUT THE LOVE HE CRAVED FROM SALLY OR HIS MISSING FATHER, HE KINDA-- LOST HIS WAY!
GOSH, I NEVER KNEW!
MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO HIM!
NO-- I'LL GO...


ANTOINE, NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST, I WANT Y'ALL TO KNOW, I THINK YOU'RE VERY BRAVE!
MERCI, BUNNIE, IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEONE CARES!

I CARE...


LOVE MAY BE IN THE AIR TONIGHT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT IS OVERSHADOWED BY DOUBT AND SUSPICION...
DRAGO! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
--ER-- I JUST WENT FOR A WALK!

THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU LEFT THE PACK THIS WEEK WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE!
ARE YOU SAYING I'M SHIRKING MY DUTIES?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT I'M GOING TO BE KEEPING AN *EYE* ON YOU!

GOOD! YOU WATCH YOUR *RENEGADE*, AND I'LL WATCH *MINE*!

AND I SAY IT IS *YOU* WHO ARE ZEE *TRAITOR*!

YEAH, AND MAYBE WE'LL *BEAT* THE TRUTH OUT OF YOU!

STOP IT!

THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF *ACCUSATIONS* TODAY, BUT NOT ONE *SUBSTANTIATED*!

EVERYONE HERE HAS *PROVEN* THEIR LOYALTY AND TIME WILL TELL IF I'M *WRONG*!

UNTIL THEN, LET'S *ALL* PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE!

IF THE *KING* AND THE *REALM* ARE EVER TO BE *SAVED*, WE MUST HOPE AND PRAY THAT *KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA* IS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS QUEST!

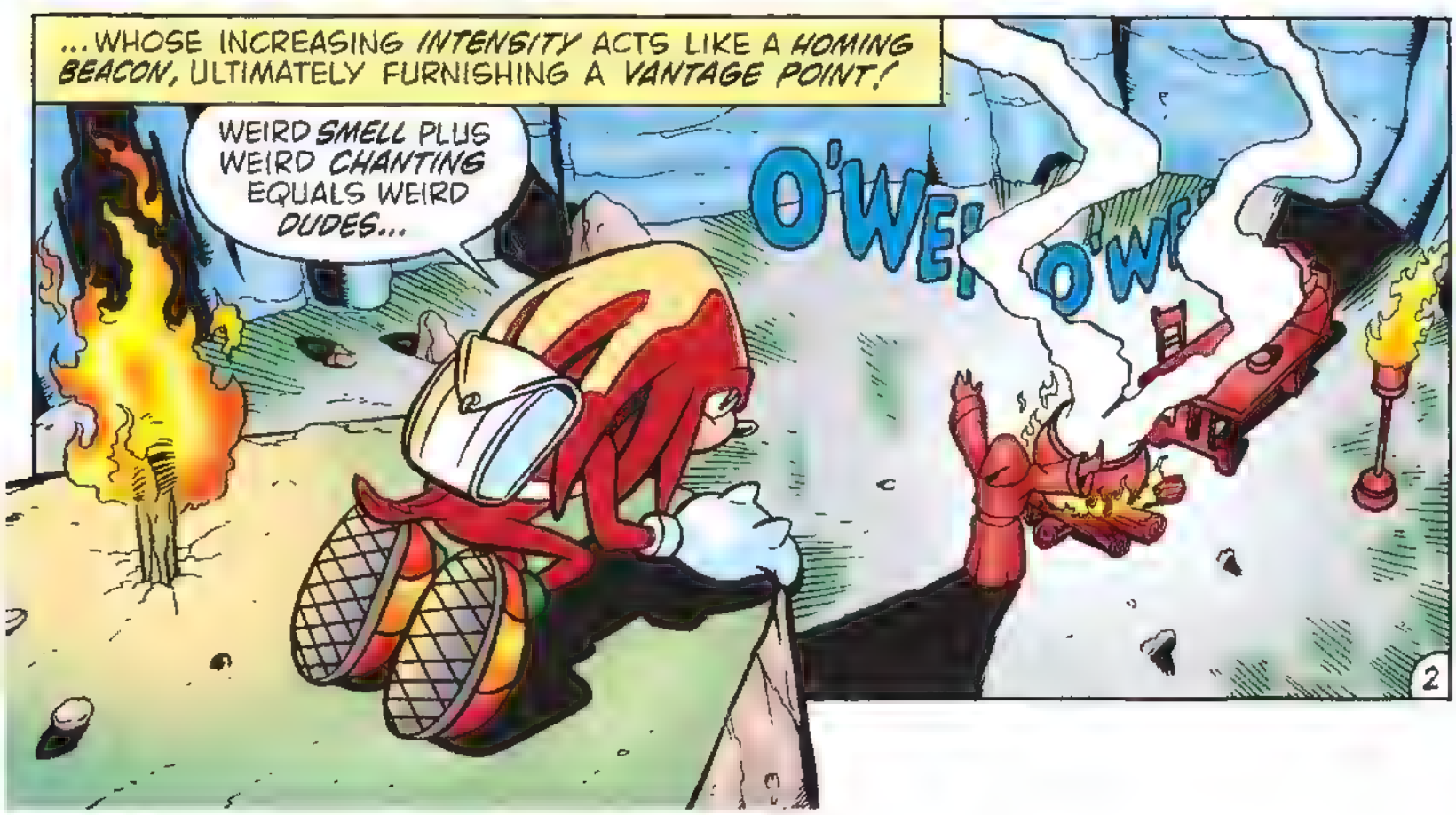
AND KNUCKLES' QUEST CONCLUDES IN THIS VERY ISSUE!

ON A QUEST TO FIND KING ACORN'S MAGIC SWORD, DESTINY DECREED KNUCKLES WOULD MEET A PALADIN!
UNRAVELING THE HOLY KNIGHT'S CRYPTIC CLUES, THE HEROIC ECHIDNA VAINLY SEARCHES THE NUMEROUS CAVERNS OF HIS FLOATING ISLAND HOME.
*KNUX MET SIR CONNERY LAST ISSUE!-- ED
LIKE MANY HISTORIC EXPEDITIONS, THAT WHICH IS NOT FOUND BY FORTITUDE...
KNUCKLES QUEST 4:
A GOAT, A RAVEN AND A SWAN SONG!
...CAN SOMETIMES BE DISCOVERED BY CIRCUMSTANCE...
WHOA! GUESS I SHOULD HEED THOSE OLD WARNINGS--
"--WATCH THAT FIRST STEP AND "BEWARE OF SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET!"
KEN PENDERS & KENT TAYLOR • WRITERS
MANNY GALÁN • PENCILER
BRIAN THOMAS • INKER
M. EISMAN • LETTERER
BARRY GROSSMAN • COLORIST

FORTUNATELY, BEING ABLE TO GLIDE ALLOWS ME TO SLOW THE FALL!
TOO BAD MY BUDDY CAN'T DO THE SAME!
SMASH!
KRAAK!

UPON LANDING, KNUCKLES BEGINS TO EXPLORE THIS LOWER CAVERN...
HMM -- THESE MARKINGS LOOK LIKE ANCIENT MYSTIC RUNES -- MAYBE I'M FINALLY ONTO SOMETHING!

TRAVELING DOWN THE DAMP, FUNGUS ENCRUSTED CAVERN BANK, THE ENTERPRISING ECHIDNA ENCOUNTERS A HORRIFIC STENCH...

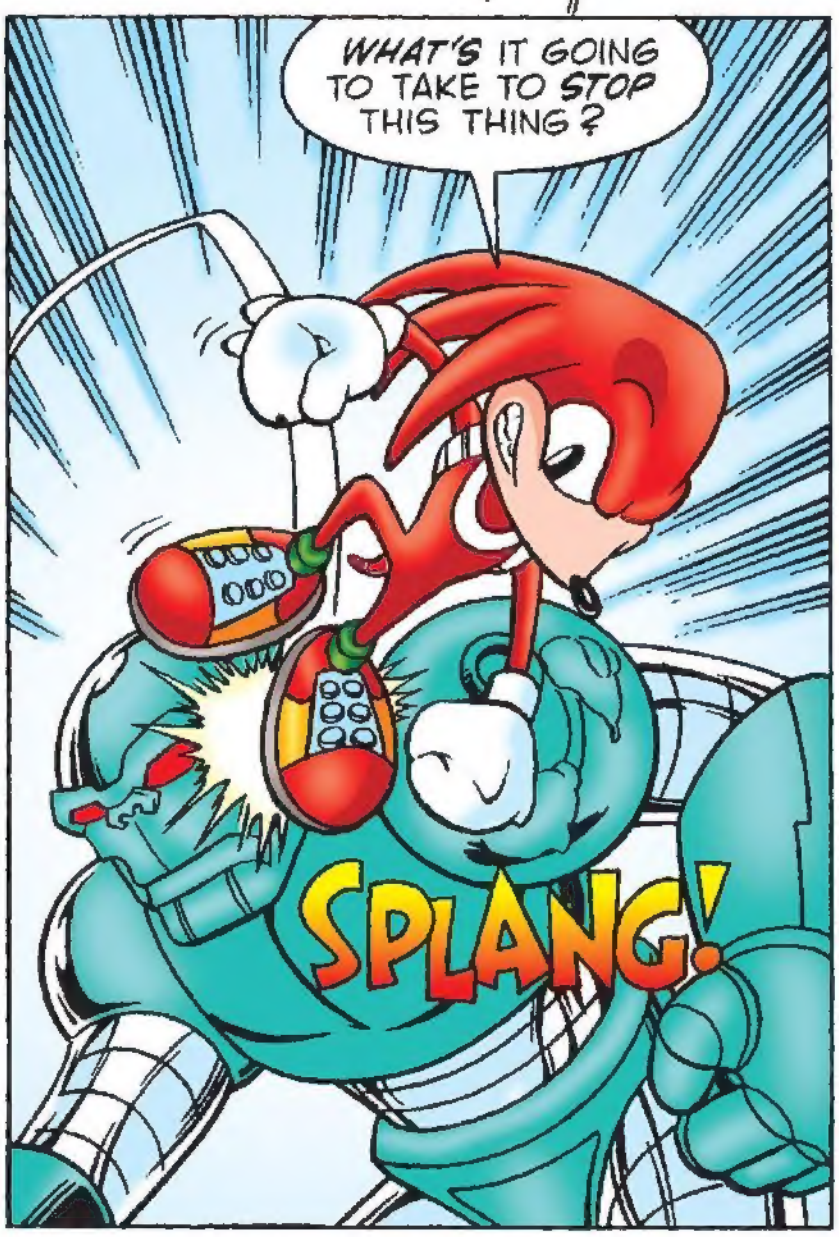

...WHOSE INCREASING INTENSITY ACTS LIKE A HOMING BEACON, ULTIMATELY FURNISHING A VANTAGE POINT!
WEIRD SMELL PLUS WEIRD CHANTING EQUALS WEIRD DUDES...
O'WE!
O'WE!

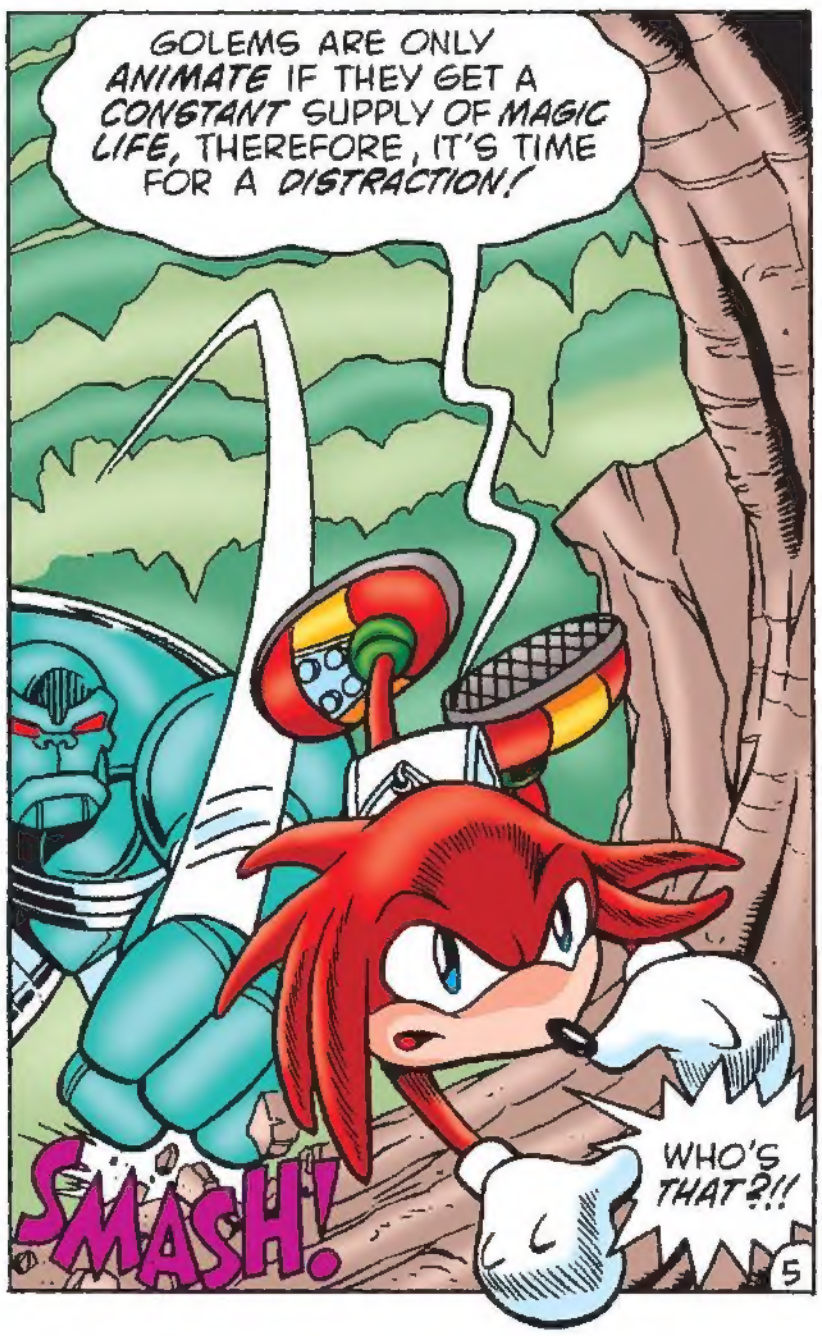
...AND THOSE WEIRDOS LOOK LIKE THE *WIZARD* AND *ALCHEMIST* THE *ANCIENT WALKERS* WARNED ME ABOUT!*
*BACK IN *SONIC #42* -- ED
"BASED ON *WHERE* I FOUND THEM, I'LL BET THEY'RE ALSO -- *MATHIAS POE* AND *DAMOCLES THE ELDER!*"
THAT REFLECTION IS SHORT-LIVED, AS THE SAME *CIRCUMSTANCE* THAT BROUGHT KNUCKLES HERE ALSO COMPROMISES HIS *STRATEGIC POSITION*
TIME FOR A LITTLE SUR-PRIZE ATT--
WHOA!

WHAT?! WHO DARES INVADE THE SANCTUM OF MATHIAS POE?
OUCH!
GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND WOULD NORMALLY DO--
BUMP!
--BUT RIGHT NOW I THINK I'M "OWNER OF THE BROKEN TUSH!"
AND SO SHALL THE REST OF YOU FOLLOW!
BY THE POTIONS OF POE, DIRECTION OF DAMOCLES AND HERBS OF THIS KETTLE--
--I BRING FORTH A GOLEM MADE OF METAL!
CRIK!
CRANK!
CLOSHK!
KA-BLAM!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU OUGHTA LEAVE THE 'BOT MAKING TO DR. ROBOTNIK?

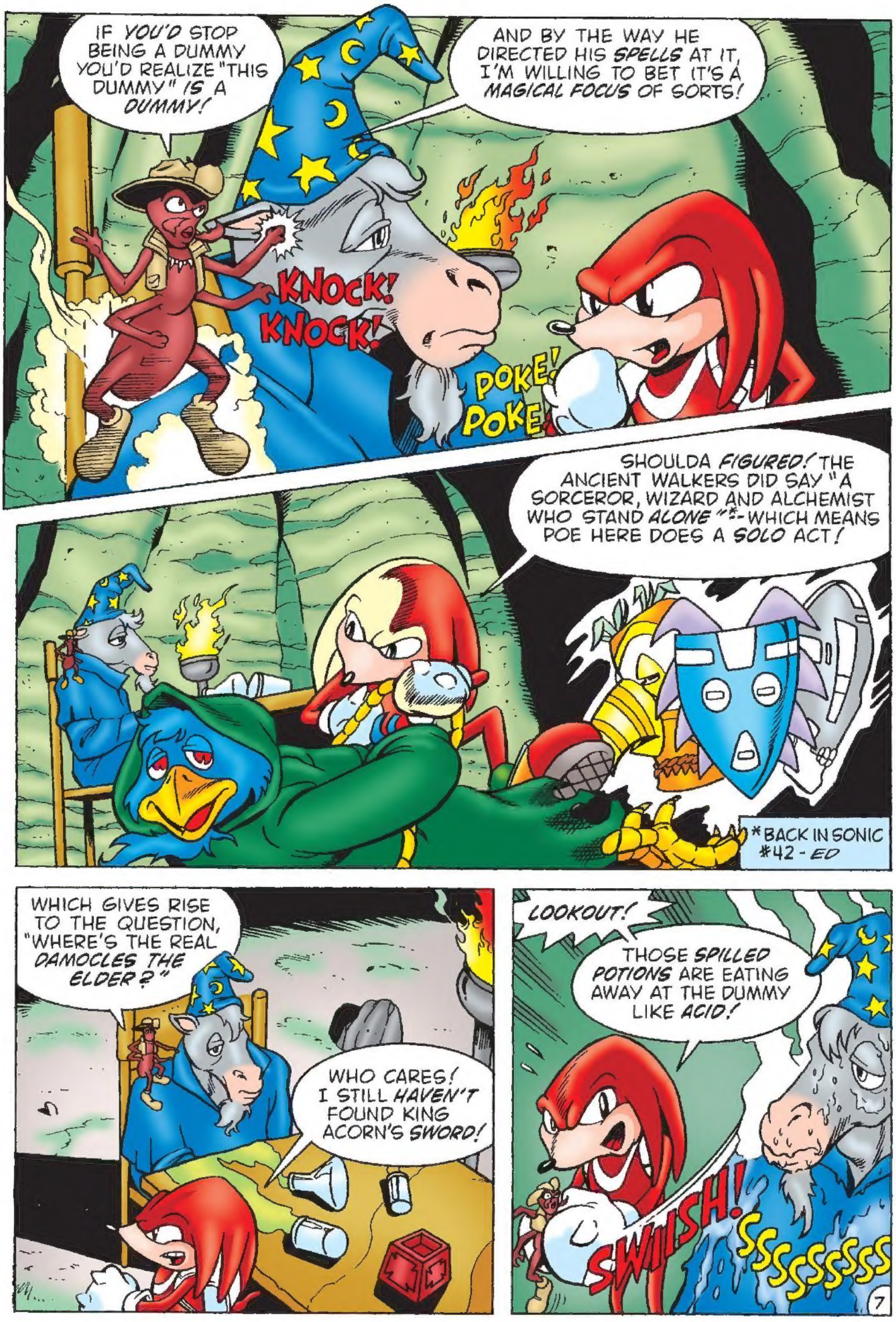
YOU GUYS MAY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SET UP SHOP ON MY ISLAND, BUT I'M CLOSING YOU DOWN!
KA-BLONG!

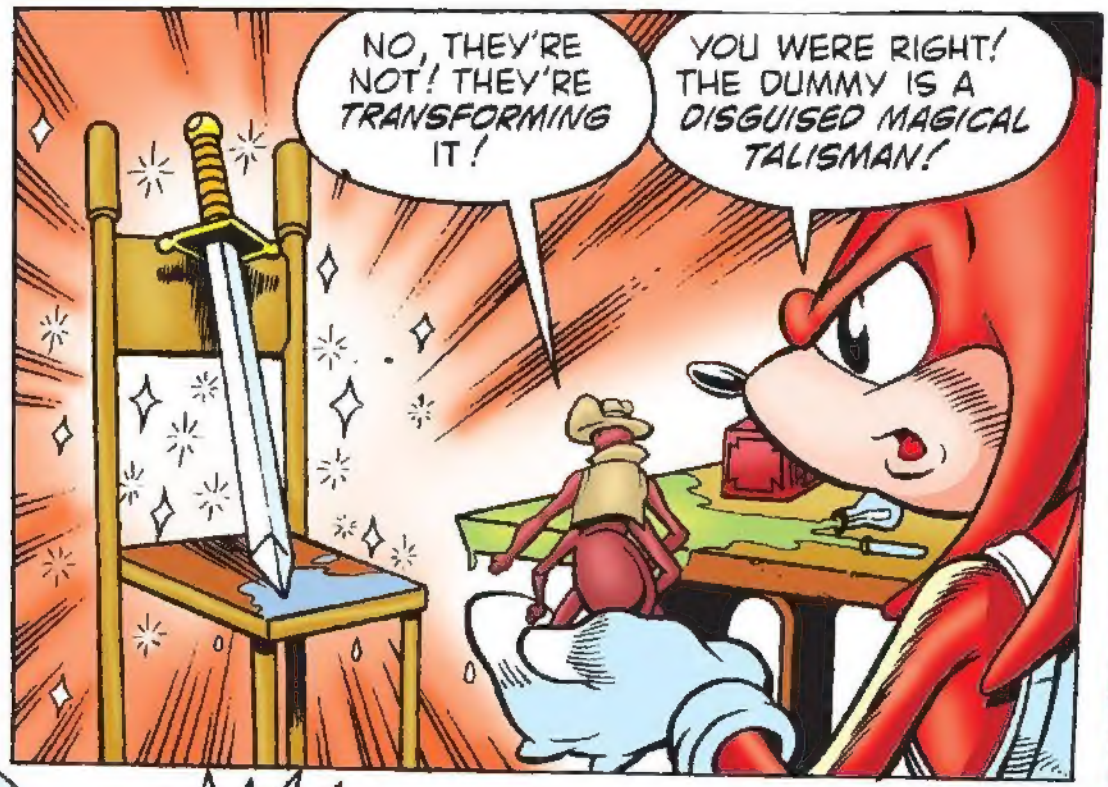
I BEG TO DIFFER!
HOLEEE--! MY SUNDAY BEST DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN!


WHAT'S IT GOING TO TAKE TO STOP THIS THING?
SPLANG!

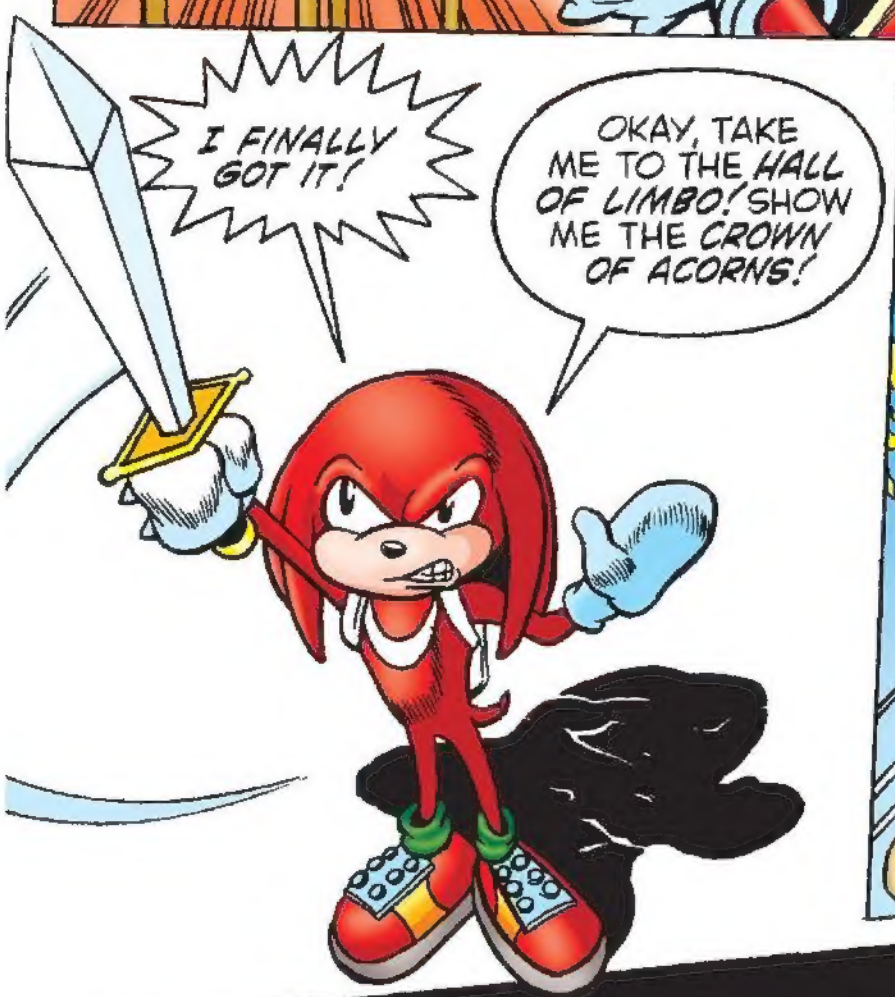

GOLEMS ARE ONLY ANIMATE IF THEY GET A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF MAGIC LIFE, THEREFORE, IT'S TIME FOR A DISTRACTION!
SMASH!
WHO'S THAT?!!

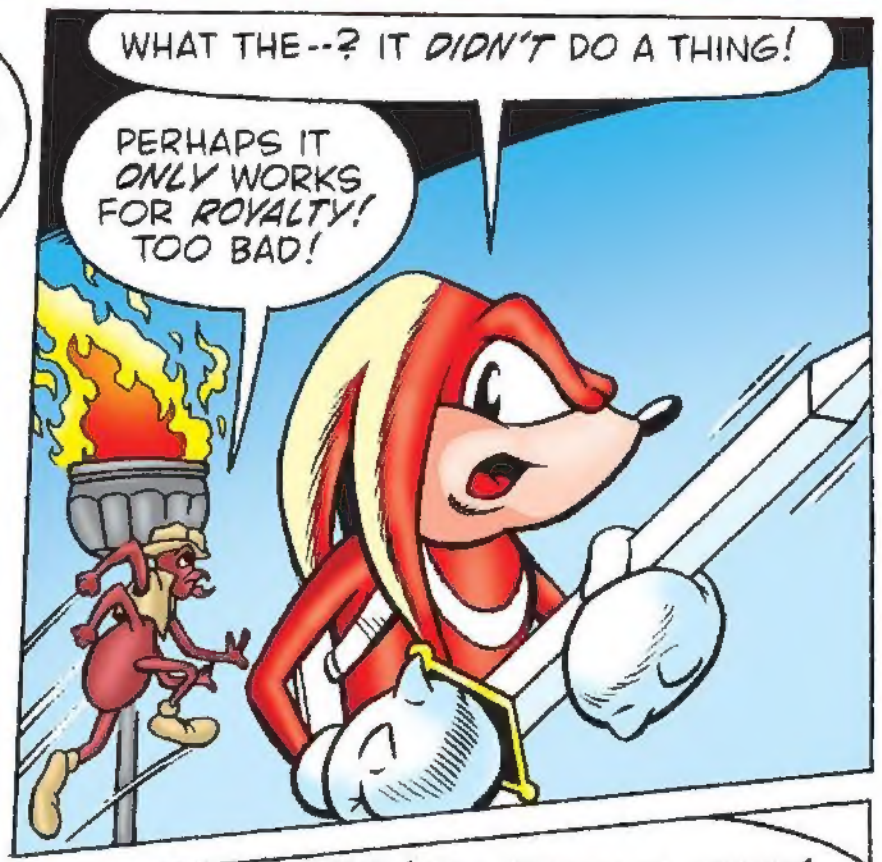
HAHAHAHAHA
ROASTED RAVEN-- EVERYONE'S FAVORITE!
AAH
RRRKKK!
ARRKK!
HEY! LOOKS LIKE THE BIG LUG STRIPPED A GEAR!
HE'S VULNERABLE NOW! TERMINATE HIM!
CREEK
KRONIK
HASTA LA VISTA, IRON PANTS!
GOOD THING FOR YOU I'M UP ON MAGICAL LORE AND HITCHED A RIDE IN YOUR BACKPACK TO SAVE YOUR BUTT!
THANKS, "TEACH", BUT WHAT DID YOU DO TO THIS DUMMY? HE'S NOT MOVING!

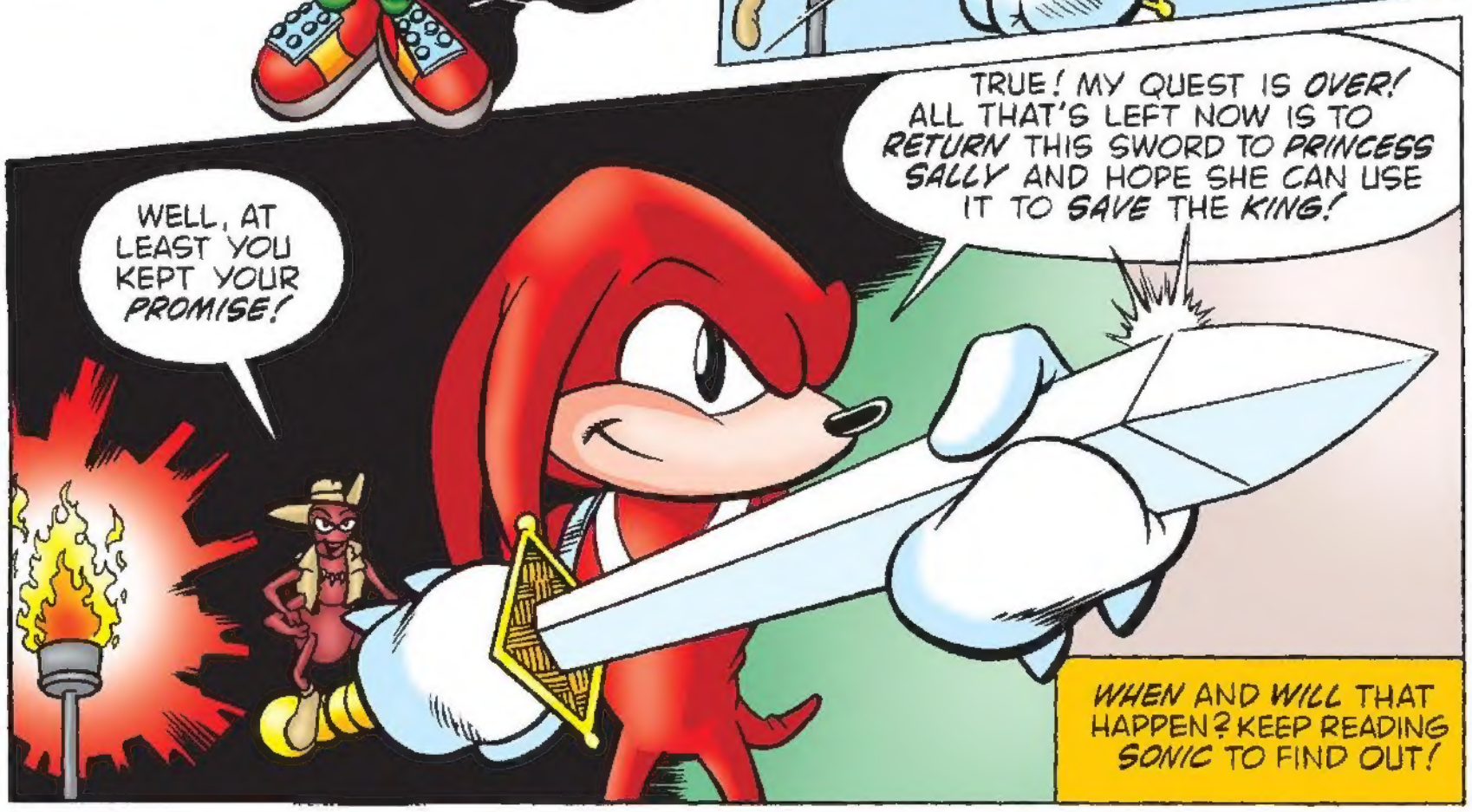

IF YOU'D STOP BEING A DUMMY YOU'D REALIZE "THIS DUMMY" IS A DUMMY!
AND BY THE WAY HE DIRECTED HIS SPELLS AT IT, I'M WILLING TO BET IT'S A MAGICAL FOCUS OF SORTS!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
POKE! POKE!
SHOULDA FIGURED! THE ANCIENT WALKERS DID SAY "A SORCEROR, WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST WHO STAND ALONE"*- WHICH MEANS POE HERE DOES A SOLO ACT!
*BACK IN SONIC #42 - ED
WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE QUESTION, "WHERE'S THE REAL DAMOCLES THE ELDER?"
WHO CARES! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND KING ACORN'S SWORD!
LOOKOUT!
THOSE SPILLED POTIONS ARE EATING AWAY AT THE DUMMY LIKE ACID!
SWIISH!
SSSSSSSS


NO, THEY'RE NOT! THEY'RE TRANSFORMING IT!
YOU WERE RIGHT! THE DUMMY IS A DISGUISED MAGICAL TALISMAN!

ALL ALONG IT WAS REALLY-- THE SWORD OF ACORNS!


I FINALLY GOT IT!
OKAY, TAKE ME TO THE HALL OF LIMBO! SHOW ME THE CROWN OF ACORNS!


WHAT THE--? IT DIDN'T DO A THING!
PERHAPS IT ONLY WORKS FOR ROYALTY! TOO BAD!


TRUE! MY QUEST IS OVER! ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO RETURN THIS SWORD TO PRINCESS SALLY AND HOPE SHE CAN USE IT TO SAVE THE KING!
WELL, AT LEAST YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!
WHEN AND WILL THAT HAPPEN? KEEP READING SONIC TO FIND OUT!